

February, 1861.

Dear Mr Garrison.

21 I enclose the
remainder of the let-
ters, & this is all.

Please to direct
my name to be
appended to the article,
necessary the financial
report. I forgot to
sign it. If you send
me a double proof, can
I not save time by
forwarding ~~one~~ copy to the
Standard from hence?

THE TWENTY-SEVENTH National Anti-Slavery Subscription-Anniversary.

THE claims of this anniversary can hardly fail, at the present hour, to be recognized. Its funds are devoted, *not* to African colonization; *not* to political partisanship; *not* to theological and metaphysical polemics; *not* to the separate education or religious instruction of persons of color; *not* to the fomenting of sectional prejudice, civil war, or bloody insurrection; *not* to the relief or redemption of individuals.

These subscriptions have always been appropriated to the work of awakening the public conscience, enlarging the popular heart, and enlightening the national mind, that, by the practical application, through legitimate channels, of the acknowledged religious and political principles of this country, slavery might be abolished and the whole land made happy and united: *not* through enforced emancipation, but by voluntary enfranchisement.

There is no longer any need of defining or describing the brutal system of slavery that, since 1789, has been demoralizing the country. A lifetime—under violence, loss, and continual annoyance—has been spent in doing *that*. The people know, *now*, that it is no distant, imaginary evil, but one that overshadows every life with danger and dishonor. While fulfilling even the simplest duty of humanity to any perishing fellow-creature who has taken refuge in the sanctuary of their own homes, their whole nature is outraged by the thought that he may be mercilessly seized as a slave, from the very hearth. They cannot protect a hunted child from a fate worse than death, without the risk of being themselves broken down for life by fine and imprisonment.

Of course, the pious refusal of free Northern populations to obey such diabolical mockeries of Constitutions and laws, with the simultaneous determination of slaveholding ones at the South never to permit their amendment, necessitates revolution. And now, no qualified observer, surveying the country, can hesitate to acknowledge the great work already done by the American Anti-Slavery Society. It has enabled the Northern populations to meet the present crisis with calm and intelligent resolution; and if the American Anti-Slavery Society had been earlier sustained, to diffuse its deep human feelings, its true counsels and accurate knowledge, more extensively, the masses of the people would betimes have been so warmly and wisely devoted to this magnificent cause, that revolution would have been purely moral, and no disturbing crisis like the present could have occurred.

But the wrong a few just and generous persons have been unable to prevent, may still, by timely coöperation with them, be retrieved.

In the very nature of things as they here exist, it will always rest with disinterested persons in private life to initiate every change for the better. Under its present cherished institutions, the country must always look beyond its Church and State dignitaries, its political and ecclesiastical servants, for the previous preparation indispensable to national progress; for how can a Governor, a Senator, a Judge, a minister of any denomination or religious society, take the lead? Every such public functionary is engaged by the people not to lead, but to serve; not to make creeds and constitutions, but to administer under them; not to make things what they should be, but to take them exactly as they are.

Hence the need of an auxiliary private, voluntary service, like that which for the last seven and twenty years the American Anti-Slavery Society has by this anniversary helped to fulfil. Its claims to popular support begin to be felt. The moral vanguard of the people, whether in a sovereign or a functionary capacity, begins to see the mistake of sending a noble official servant to reap where no generous voluntary service of good and thoughtful men has previously sowed. Let all now unite to sustain such a service—the only possible means of peaceful national progress—the only possible condition of national growth or guaranty for continued national existence.

After having for a life-time done what we could in this behalf, have we not established its claim upon every thoughtful, just and noble soul? On all such we cordially and confidently rely for both moral support and pecuniary aid. *Both* will be afforded by the act of subscription to which we now invite.

We entreat our friends to remember that, however advantageous and indispensable the largest sums subscribed, none confer on us a higher obligation than the smaller one which the guest offers, regretting that it is the largest in his power.

In behalf of the Twenty-seventh National Anti-Slavery Subscription-Anniversary,

MARIA WESTON CHAPMAN.

Hoping you are
fast recovering, & that
all your dear family
have escaped the horrid
colds that have attacked
everyone of us here,
I am, ever,
your friend

A. W. Chapman.